

was held at the Police Office this day, pursuant to notice, for the revision of the electoral list of the Police District of Berrima, in the county of Camden. Present: Messrs S. North, T. M., J. Nicholson, senior, J. P.; W. L. East, Esq., J. P., and J. A. Assessor.

The Commission, under the chair of His Excellency the Governor, nominating and appointing the two last named gentlemen Assessors, having been read, they made and signed the electoral list, as required by the 60th clause of the Act of Councils, and the 16 (the rest of the officers of the Court having previously done the same). The Court then proceeded to the revision of the list. There were three names on the list, and one objection, all of which were sustained. There are on the list, as finally settled, 102 voters names for this district.

4.—Still cold winds from the southward; everything assuming the garb of winter.

DISTRICT COUNCIL.—This is the day for the nomination of persons to act as District Councilors for the year ending on the 31st of December. (J. Nicholson and J. A. Assessor, one however, appeared at the appointed time (noon). It therefore devolves on His Excellency to fill up the vacancies. This is as it should be.

CONCERT.—May 6.—Last evening, for the first time, the good people of this town enjoyed a treat which we fear will not occur again for many a long day. Madame and Mons. Gautrot, of Lyons, and M. Victor Las, which was very respectable company. The pieces chosen for the occasion were excellent, and the execution of them reflects great credit on Madame Gautrot, who by the bye runs the theatre that she and M. Victor Las occasionally with a violin accompaniment. Madame Gautrot's execution of that beautiful Cavatina in Rossini's *Opéra of Barber de Seville*—*Una voce poco fa*—expressed general admiration. M. Victor Las's singing of the *Adagio*, was also well executed. Great disappointment was felt at Mons. Gautrot not displaying his talents as an *artiste* on the violin. He sang, and he had not his own instrument; but his singing was not so well adapted for such performance. They leave this to-morrow, for Goulburn, where they purpose residing. We trust they will meet with every success.

GOULBURN.

MAY 7.—At the annual licensing meeting, the following persons obtained general licenses:—Mr. B. Moses, J. McDonald, J. W. Wainley, J. M. Ross, J. McDonald, and J. Doyle. Mr. B. Moses, of Long's shill O'Brien's Newmann, all for Goulburn. The latter held a wine and beer license, but having applied for a general license it was granted. Thomas Jacobs held a similar license for the same place. Mr. B. Moses; Birth applied for a wine and beer license for a house in Goulburn, offering to keep a house for general accommodation, which was granted. Many have been surprised to learn that the license that since the license was obtained that two slab and bark skillions are being put up to make up the number, of what is to be called rooms, but if these are to pass the test of the magistrates, and if the test of place will be the same, these general accommodation licenses will be granted. The following licenses were also granted in the district:—Thomas Brown, Wingello; W. Champion, Shelley Plains; George Dan, Towrang; John Riddell, Wingello; John Riddell, Wingello; John Nichol, Lake George; Pierre Pordevin, Old Collector; B. Gould, Old Township; these all obtained general license. James Mahon applied for a general license for a house in Goulburn, but it was refused; the magistrates offered to renew the wine and beer license, but the applicant declined accepting it; and Patrick Manney applied for a wine and beer license for a house in Goulburn, but it was refused. The Sydney Road crosses the Mulwre Creek, but was refused.

ELDERMAN OF DISTRICT COUNCILORS.—The following persons were nominated by the electors to nominate three gentlemen in the room of two who retired by effluxion of time, and one deceased. The former were Mr. Richard Campbell and Mr. Marden; the latter, Mr. J. A. Assessor. The electors were called to elect or to be elected, the Warden had it all to himself.

TRANSLATION.—We understand that the Presbyterians of this district have given a harmonious and united effort to the cause of Mr. Ross, of the Hunter River, which, we believe, he has accepted, and consequently will be installed as soon as the necessary forms are gone through in the Presbytery at Campbelltown.

FUNERAL.—We had something new (although common in some places in Great Britain), introduced amongst us the other day, on the occasion of one of the late Mr. Ross, of the Hunter River, who, we believe, he has accepted, and consequently will be installed as soon as the necessary forms are gone through in the Presbytery at Campbelltown.

COMMUNAL.—Three men were committed to take their trial on Tuesday last by the bench here for stealing fat to the value of 1s. 6d.

MURMURBAH.

MAY 6.—I beg to acquaint you that the "even terror of our way" has been somewhat disturbed of late by an occurrence which has attracted the notice of the public, and excitement in the surrounding neighbourhood.

Two daring acts of highway robbery with fire arms have been committed within a short period of time, between Mr. O'Brien and Mr. O'Brien, who was the owner of such depredation took place on the 1st ultimo, when a Mr. O'Brien was stopped on his journey from Berrima to the latter place, by a bushranger, who presented a blunderbuss and emptied the contents of his pockets on the ground. Mr. O'Brien, with what grace may be easily imagined, was vain to comply, and having reluctantly tossed his loose goods and articles of apparel on the ground, he was ordered to remain where he stood whilst his horse was taken into the bush and divested of the saddle, and a great coat strapped to the back of the horse. The horse was then led and papers of infinite importance to the owner. With these the fellow decamped, and left the horse at liberty in the bush.

On the 28th, a Mr. (Shelly) McDonald, being on his journey from Berrima to the latter place, was stopped near the same spot, at a short distance from Shelly's Plains, by a ruffian, who suddenly emerged from the bush, and presenting a piece, (also described as a blunderbuss), ordered him to dismount, and the ruffian, Mr. McDonald being unarmed, was necessitated to submit to the process, however disagreeable, of being robbed of all he had about him, namely a pocket-book, containing two silver pieces, and a silver watch, together with 4s. 9d. in silver. Immediately after this outrage had been perpetrated, Mr. McDonald met a troop of the mounted police, and gave him a minute description of the man, and the horse, and the ruffian, who he (the trooper, John Riddell, of the Wingello Division), promptly started in pursuit of the thief, whom he was so fortunate as to fall in with before he had reached the place where he had deposited his ill-gotten booty. It appears that in securing the bush on the Bungonia line of road, Riddell came upon a man named Willocks, near to his own dwelling, who was armed and loaded, and found on his person all that had been taken from Mr. McDonald; an active search being afterwards made at his Willocks's house and in its vicinity, and assembling a blunderbuss was discovered concealed in a hollow tree, together with Mr. O'Brien's lost saddle and great coat.

On Monday last, the prisoner was brought to the Police Office, and highly intelligent

Magistrate, Mr. M. Campbell, Esq., at Wingello, who occupied the witness stand, while day in receiving the testimony of the witnesses, and the examination being resumed yesterday, such conclusive evidence of Willocks's guilt was adduced as led to the advertisement of the day.

Another man, named O'Brien had been for some time in custody, on suspicion of being the party who stopped Mr. O'Brien, of Berman Wood, but on searching the dwelling of the Berman Wood, no traces of the stolen property were found there, which Mr. O'Brien is supposed to be the party who stole from him on the occasion before alluded to; and this, coupled with discovery of the saddle and great coat being discovered in the house, caused the immediate discharge of O'Brien.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the Sydney Morning Herald.
GENTLEMEN,—The Concert advertised to take place at the Queen Victoria Inn, Berrima, on instant, by Monsieur and Madame Goutrot, is advertised to take place at the same place, *through a mistake*, the Concert came off on Wednesday last, the 5th of May. A copy of the programme was left at your office for the giving publicity to such a novel affair taking place at Berrima, and, to the surprise and satisfaction of that locale.

To prevent all persons from being misled on Wednesday next, they are informed that no Concert will be held there on that evening.

Yours inserting this in to-morrow's *Herald* will oblige,

JOSEPH LEVY.
Monday, May 10, 1847.

To the Editors of the Sydney Morning Herald.
GENTLEMEN,—In recent letters I endeavored to show the great advantages which would result to the colony from the sale of wine, the sale of wines, spirits, and beer, in an unadulterated temperance, economy, and health, and also the encouragement of our domestic production. My proposal you will remember was, that a ten pound license should be sold to any person who chose to pay for it, in town or country, enabling him to retail wines, spirits, and beer, not to be drunk on the premises. I thought to point out two other advantages, which I am led to do by the facts of the character. The first is, that illicit distillation, which still prevails to some extent, will, in case of such licenses being granted, be discouraged by the fact that the distillers' shops in rural places, which will not be able to sell wine and fruit growers and others being allowed openly to do what they are now disposed to do clandestinely. The second is a great positive addition to the revenue in the case of licenses; for though the number of thirty pound licenses would perhaps be slightly diminished, there would be a prodigious number of the new licenses paid for instead. If it be thought that the public would not be benefited by this, do not derive any benefit from the present system; in consequence of their foolishly keeping up the price of liquors, they never sell any for anything. Neither would the merchant be injured for he would not be able to sell to the retailers who he now sells to families. I have not the smallest doubt that in the first year ten thousand pounds would be added to the revenue in one way. A more legitimate taxation cannot be.

C. W.
I have been advising my friend Col Withcott, to give that honorable gentleman Maister's name to his new distillery, and to call it *this* distillery, as Maister believes in a gay and the upshot, but my friend is so very blue by a long way for that. So I have eik'd this bit note myself.

ANDRO MERRY.
Villa Praetoria, 7th May.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1847.

IMPOUNDINGS.

Cowcow.—May 1: Yellow working cow, branded like W off hind, 18 and 19, 20 and 21, 22 and 23, 24 and 25, 26 and 27, 28 and 29, 30 and 31, 32 and 33, 34 and 35, 36 and 37, 38 and 39, 40 and 41, 42 and 43, 44 and 45, 46 and 47, 48 and 49, 50 and 51, 52 and 53, 54 and 55, 56 and 57, 58 and 59, 60 and 61, 62 and 63, 64 and 65, 66 and 67, 68 and 69, 70 and 71, 72 and 73, 74 and 75, 76 and 77, 78 and 79, 80 and 81, 82 and 83, 84 and 85, 86 and 87, 88 and 89, 90 and 91, 92 and 93, 94 and 95, 96 and 97, 98 and 99, 100 and 101, 102 and 103, 104 and 105, 106 and 107, 108 and 109, 110 and 111, 112 and 113, 114 and 115, 116 and 117, 118 and 119, 120 and 121, 122 and 123, 124 and 125, 126 and 127, 128 and 129, 130 and 131, 132 and 133, 134 and 135, 136 and 137, 138 and 139, 140 and 141, 142 and 143, 144 and 145, 146 and 147, 148 and 149, 150 and 151, 152 and 153, 154 and 155, 156 and 157, 158 and 159, 160 and 161, 162 and 163, 164 and 165, 166 and 167, 168 and 169, 170 and 171, 172 and 173, 174 and 175, 176 and 177, 178 and 179, 180 and 181, 182 and 183, 184 and 185, 186 and 187, 188 and 189, 190 and 191, 192 and 193, 194 and 195, 196 and 197, 198 and 199, 200 and 201, 202 and 203, 204 and 205, 206 and 207, 208 and 209, 210 and 211, 212 and 213, 214 and 215, 216 and 217, 218 and 219, 220 and 221, 222 and 223, 224 and 225, 226 and 227, 228 and 229, 230 and 231, 232 and 233, 234 and 235, 236 and 237, 238 and 239, 240 and 241, 242 and 243, 244 and 245, 246 and 247, 248 and 249, 250 and 251, 252 and 253, 254 and 255, 256 and 257, 258 and 259, 260 and 261, 262 and 263, 264 and 265, 266 and 267, 268 and 269, 270 and 271, 272 and 273, 274 and 275, 276 and 277, 278 and 279, 280 and 281, 282 and 283, 284 and 285, 286 and 287, 288 and 289, 290 and 291, 292 and 293, 294 and 295, 296 and 297, 298 and 299, 300 and 301, 302 and 303, 304 and 305, 306 and 307, 308 and 309, 310 and 311, 312 and 313, 314 and 315, 316 and 317, 318 and 319, 320 and 321, 322 and 323, 324 and 325, 326 and 327, 328 and 329, 330 and 331, 332 and 333, 334 and 335, 336 and 337, 338 and 339, 340 and 341, 342 and 343, 344 and 345, 346 and 347, 348 and 349, 350 and 351, 352 and 353, 354 and 355, 356 and 357, 358 and 359, 360 and 361, 362 and 363, 364 and 365, 366 and 367, 368 and 369, 370 and 371, 372 and 373, 374 and 375, 376 and 377, 378 and 379, 380 and 381, 382 and 383, 384 and 385, 386 and 387, 388 and 389, 390 and 391, 392 and 393, 394 and 395, 396 and 397, 398 and 399, 400 and 401, 402 and 403, 404 and 405, 406 and 407, 408 and 409, 410 and 411, 412 and 413, 414 and 415, 416 and 417, 418 and 419, 420 and 421, 422 and 423, 424 and 425, 426 and 427, 428 and 429, 430 and 431, 432 and 433, 434 and 435, 436 and 437, 438 and 439, 440 and 441, 442 and 443, 444 and 445, 446 and 447, 448 and 449, 450 and 451, 452 and 453, 454 and 455, 456 and 457, 458 and 459, 460 and 461, 462 and 463, 464 and 465, 466 and 467, 468 and 469, 470 and 471, 472 and 473, 474 and 475, 476 and 477, 478 and 479, 480 and 481, 482 and 483, 484 and 485, 486 and 487, 488 and 489, 490 and 491, 492 and 493, 494 and 495, 496 and 497, 498 and 499, 500 and 501, 502 and 503, 504 and 505, 506 and 507, 508 and 509, 510 and 511, 512 and 513, 514 and 515, 516 and 517, 518 and 519, 520 and 521, 522 and 523, 524 and 525, 526 and 527, 528 and 529, 530 and 531, 532 and 533, 534 and 535, 536 and 537, 538 and 539, 540 and 541, 542 and 543, 544 and 545, 546 and 547, 548 and 549, 550 and 551, 552 and 553, 554 and 555, 556 and 557, 558 and 559, 560 and 561, 562 and 563, 564 and 565, 566 and 567, 568 and 569, 570 and 571, 572 and 573, 574 and 575, 576 and 577, 578 and 579, 580 and 581, 582 and 583, 584 and 585, 586 and 587, 588 and 589, 590 and 591, 592 and 593, 594 and 595, 596 and 597, 598 and 599, 600 and 601, 602 and 603, 604 and 605, 606 and 607, 608 and 609, 610 and 611, 612 and 613, 614 and 615, 616 and 617, 618 and 619, 620 and 621, 622 and 623, 624 and 625, 626 and 627, 628 and 629, 630 and 631, 632 and 633, 634 and 635, 636 and 637, 638 and 639, 640 and 641, 642 and 643, 644 and 645, 646 and 647, 648 and 649, 650 and 651, 652 and 653, 654 and 655, 656 and 657, 658 and 659, 660 and 661, 662 and 663, 664 and

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There remained to be received from England and elsewhere 95,200 dollars for the two-fifths not yet paid up, besides other sums not immediately available. Some discussion took place as to the propriety of suspending the meeting of the Vice-President said it was the intention of the Directors to preserve the charter of the establishment.

A special meeting of the Directors and Shareholders of the Commercial Union Bank, at the request of some of the shareholders, to enquire into the late robbery of the Chinese, was held on the 5th ultimo. The chairman of the meeting, Mr. J. W. G. having made a mature investigation of the affair, that body were convinced that no blame could be attached to any one. After some discussion a motion of Mr. Francis was put and carried to the effect that the shareholders should be satisfied that he had not verified his chest officer, as it might have led to the discovery of the robbery, and they trusted that in future more exactitude would be exercised.

STUPE.—All through the month there has been a good demand, and a scarcity in the market for sale. Prices have consequently gradually advanced and a difference will be made in the prices we quote below and those of last week. The prices will be more than 120,000,000 lbs., but the quantity remaining to be shipped will be scattered through three or four months. The sales at present of the monies were as follows:—

Fine yellow to good and	5 20 to 6 10
Fine grey to good and middling	5 80
Low qualities	4 15 6

and the prices of the British sugar have been purchased for the British market, and there was till the middle of the month a brisk demand for the Cape and New Holland, which has now somewhat diminished.

First quality	4 30 to 4 67
Second and third ditto	3 60 to 4 20

THE WEATHER continued most favourable for the plantations. Occasional refreshing showers in the evening, with a strong sun during the day. The reports we receive from every part of the island are of the best tendency; the crops, the rapids, and estates are better cultivated, than as they have been made much earlier than usual.

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE AMENDMENT OF THE LAW.

(From the Times, December 17.)

YESTERDAY evening, the members of the above society held a meeting at their rooms in Regent-street.

Mr. Connelleyer Foulque took the chair, and the minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed,

Mr. Hill, Queen's counsel, called the attention of the society to various plans which of late years had been promulgated, and to some of the grounds on which they were referred to secondary punishments. He commenced by reverting to the plan of Captain Maconochie, and observed that he was glad to see announced that day in *The Times* and *Globe* news-articles of the success of the plan, and to perceive that plan, with some modifications, a trial. He only hoped that the modifications would not be such as to perill the success of the plan itself. An experiment for the reformation of the young offenders of 60 persons, who were by a society established in Warwick; and it appeared by the proceedings of this society, that 50 per cent of the persons sent to their asylum had been reformed; and dividing the average cost of the reformation of 60 persons, he found only £25 per head for each of the 60 persons reformed. Therefore it appeared to be even cheaper to reform these offenders than to prosecute them.

This was proved by a paper prepared by Mr. Russell, the principal magistrate at Liverpool; for, taking the case of a certain number of young persons apprehended, committed, tried, punished, and reformed, he appeared that the number of reformations was very few indeed, and the average expense consequent on the more prosecutions of these young persons (some of whom were prosecuted many times) was £56 per person. He also referred to the experiment of the society at Warwick to be necessary for their reformation. He also referred to an experiment, tried by the quarter sessions of young offenders, which consisted in confining them, not in a prison, but to a master, who undertook to take care of them. The number of persons so disposed of was 113, and out of that number it appeared that there were 40 whose conduct had been decidedly bad, 29 were described as doubtful, and 44 were described as having left the town it was impossible to know whether they had reformed themselves; but there were 44 whose conduct had stood the test of examination. Thus, without any expense to the community, or interference with the law, the result was obtained—that out of 113 persons, there were only 40 cases of certain failure, while there were 44 cases of certain success. Alluding to the reports of the inspectors of Prisons, Scotland, and the chaplains of the gaols in England and Scotland, and alluding to the document drawn up by the city solicitor, and other plans, he remarked that whatever difference of opinion might prevail as to the propriety of the plan, he was of opinion that the subject concurred in thinking that the object to be sought after, in reference to the treatment of prisoners, was their reformation. It was his intention to conclude his observations on the formation of the committee to be referred to a committee of the society for the purpose of reporting on the various plans tried or proposed for the treatment of criminals, and of young persons likely to become criminals, and also to the various principles on which punishment ought to be awarded and conducted. He wished it to be clearly understood that the repression and deterrence of crime was the ultimate object he had in view. He could not but be sensible he had a right to inflict pain to a very great extent on criminals without any view to their advancement, future or present, if such were found to be necessary for the repression of crime; but it was because he believed it to be the best mode of effecting that object that he was hostile to it. It was admitted on all hands that the vindictive principle could not be upheld, and that the only principle on which the law of our fellow beings who became criminals, might be based, that the pain might operate as a warning and example to them and others not to commit offences; and, secondly, that it might be necessary to inflict pain on criminals, in order to reform them, and that when they came into conflict the former was to be preferred. But he was of opinion that they need not come into conflict, for, if pain was inflicted in the manner of reformation of offenders, that would, in point of fact, operate also incidentally by the way of example, and with more pain directly inflicted, than with no other view than of punishment; supposing, however, that the two principles came into conflict, then, as the principle of reformation was much more powerful than the principle of repression and example, the latter ought to give way. He was of opinion that the effect of the infliction of pain in producing warning and example was overrated, and such a conclusion was not supported by the criminal returns of the country, by which it appeared that the number of persons prosecuted was enormous, as well as the number of times the individuals were apprehended; and in the northern part of the country, where justice seemed to be administered with a more promptness, it appeared by the report of one of the inspectors of Scotch prisons, that in visiting a prison, and an old woman on the eve of departing for her trial, she had been in prison a few days before by another party of the same sex, who had departed for her trial a few days before. He believed that the effect of the administration of justice on the minds of the spectators would be to lead them to be dissuaded by the knowledge that a criminal was subjected to no more pain than was necessary for his reformation, but, nevertheless, that he was liable to all the pain that the principle to its full extent, and from saying that the criminal should never be suffered to mingle

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Extraordinary TO THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 11, 1847.

LATE ENGLISH NEWS.

Tuesday, 4 past 3, P.M.
The *Prince of Wales*, from London, after an excellent passage of one hundred days, has put us in possession of English newspapers to the 28th Jan. Although the vessel entered the Heads before nine o'clock, it was, owing to the westerly wind, past twelve before we received any papers, which accounts for our not having issued our extra sheet at an earlier hour.

The distress in Ireland continued to increase, and had reached an appalling extent. Deaths from starvation were of almost hourly occurrence.

Parliament met on the 19th January. We have given a very full abstract of the debate upon the Address, and of Lord John Russell's speech on the affairs of Ireland.

A Bill for allowing grain to be imported duty free, for suspending the navigation laws, and allowing sugar for distillers' use to be imported duty free, had passed both Houses, and received the Royal Assent.

The new charter of Government for New Zealand, under the late Act of Parliament, had been issued and will be brought out by Lieut-Governor EYRE, who had taken his passage in the *Glentaner*, February packet.

Among the deaths we notice the names of Mr. BYNO, (57 years member for Middlesex); General CLAY, General MITCHELL, Mr. J. J. GURNEY; Sir E. H. EAST, Sir WM. HILLARY, and Lord BOLLO.

The great amount of distress had of course affected trade, but the amount of traffic caused by the importation of provisions had prevented it from being so much depressed as might have been expected. Consols had gone down to 90½.

Major General PITT was under orders for New Zealand, and it was said would have the command of the Troops in these Colonies.

The summary of Parliamentary News has occupied so much space that it has shut out a number of extracts which we intended to insert, but must stand over until to-morrow.

ARRIVAL.

MAY 11.—*Prince of Wales*, barque, 582 tons, Captain Middleton, from the Downs the 19th, and Plymouth the 30th January. Passengers—Mr. and Mrs. Thorne, Mr. Hendon, Mr. G. Gane, and Mr. Thomas Maidmont.
The *Prince of Wales* has made an excellent run of 100 days from Plymouth. The *Ward*, hence the 1st of July, arrived in the Downs about the latter end of December, and entered outwards for Port Phillip on the 23rd January. The *Post Office Packet* *Resolute* sailed from the Downs for Sydney, on the 8th January, and the *Ningro* on the 19th January. The *Prince of Wales* reports having spoken on the 29th March, the Dutch ship *Hortensius*, which vessel had spoken the *Ningro* from London, bound to Sydney. On the 6th May, was in company with the barque *Ann Bates*, in *Bass* Straits, from Manila, bound to Sydney. The *Prince of Wales* has brought a large cargo, of which the following are the principal articles: 185 cases, 32 hogheads and 13 casks brandy, 200 hogheads geneva, 35 hogheads rum, 888 casks and 138 hogheads beer, 79 casks malt, 970 bags salt, 53 kegs and 12 cisterns tobacco, 10 pockets hops, 26 barrels and 10 cisterns currants, 164 boxes and 10 barrels raisins, 100 half-barrels herrings.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19.

THE QUEEN'S PROGRESS.

At a quarter before two o'clock, the royal *cortège* proceeded from Buckingham Palace in the usual order, and by the accustomed route, along the Mall, through the Horse Guards, Whitehall, and Parliament-street, to the Lords' entrance in Old Palace-yard. The whole line of the procession was much more crowded, notwithstanding the gloomy and uninviting aspect of the day, than we ever remember to have seen it on any similar occasion. The terraces on the Mall, the magnificent flight of Carlton steps, and the windows and balconies along the route were thronged; and in the Park itself there has scarcely been so great a multitude collected since the *fêtes* in celebration of the great peace in 1814. It was a matter of general observation among the people themselves, and we heard it attempted to be accounted for by several on the ground that there was so many people out of work. But the cheerful countenances, the respectable attire, and the happy and contented bearing of the general mass, gave practical and emphatic contradiction to that supposition. Indeed her Majesty could have observed nothing in the appearance of these congregated thousands of her subjects, which must not add to her conviction that, despite of the somewhat cheerless character of the times, she continues to reign over the happiest and most loyal as well of the freest and most powerful people in the world. She was everywhere greeted with loud and hearty cheering, which she acknowledged with manifest satisfaction, evidently deriving from it much consolation towards the painful task which she was about to undergo, of calling the attention of her Parliament to the sufferings of a large portion of the empire.

The conduct of the vast multitude in every direction was remarkable for good order and good humour, and it is as just as it may be expedient to observe, that the conduct of the police along the route was exceedingly courteous and forbearing, even when the unintentional pressure of the crowd might give excuse for some slight ebullition on the part of the younger amongst those entrusted with the preservation of order.

On Her Majesty's return from the House of Lords she was saluted with greetings even more enthusiastic than those which had gratified her on her progress down.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

There was a numerous attendance of Peers. The many coloured garments and elegant head-dresses had a beautiful effect.

The *corps diplomatique* arrived at an early hour. They occupied seats to the left of the throne.

There was a seat on the right and left of the throne, that on the right being the seat of the Prince of Wales, whose arms it bore.

At half-past one o'clock the House became so dark that the throne could scarcely be seen from the reporters' gallery. The chandeliers were consequently lit—an unusual occurrence even at the opening and prorogation of Parliament. We cannot call a similar occurrence to mind—the general effect was in consequence materially heightened.

Shortly before two o'clock the Lord Chancellor took his seat on the Woolsack. The Duke of Cambridge arrived nearly at the same time. The Duke of Wellington arrived at two o'clock, and was received by the Duke of Cambridge, with "Why, Duke, you look quite young." The Duke truly appeared in excellent health.

At a quarter past two o'clock the firing of cannon and the herald's trumpets announced the arrival of the royal *cortège* at the Houses of Parliament.

After a short sojourn in the Robing-room, the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Officers of State and of the Household, entered in the usual form.

Both her Majesty and her Royal Consort appeared in excellent health and spirits. She wore a magnificent tiara and omacher of diamonds. As the foggy

nature of the weather had by this time departed, the *coup d'œil* was magnificent in the extreme.

Having taken her seat on the throne, and the Commons having been summoned, the Lord Chancellor presented her Majesty with the Speech.

Her Majesty then, in a clear, silvery voice, read the

SPEECH.

My Lords and Gentlemen—It is with the deepest concern that, upon your again assembling, I have to call your attention to the dearth of provisions which prevails in Ireland and in parts of Scotland.

In Ireland, especially, the loss of the usual food of the people has been the cause of severe sufferings, of disease, and of greatly increased mortality among the poorer classes. Outrages have become more frequent, chiefly directed against property; and the transit of provisions has been rendered unsafe in some parts of the country.

With a view to mitigate these evils, very large numbers of men have been employed, and have received wages, in pursuance of an Act passed in the last session of Parliament. Some deviations from that Act, which have been authorised by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in order to promote more useful employment, will, I trust, receive your sanction. Means have been taken to lessen the pressure of want in districts which are most remote from the ordinary sources of supply. Outrages have been repressed, as far as it was possible, by the military and police.

It is satisfactory to me to observe that in many of the most distressed districts the patience and resignation of the people have been most exemplary.

The deficiency of the harvest in France and Germany, and other parts of Europe, has added to the difficulty of obtaining adequate supplies of provisions.

It will be your duty to consider what further measures are required to alleviate the existing distress. I recommend to you to take into your serious consideration, whether by increasing for a limited period the facilities for importing corn from foreign countries, and by the admission of sugar more freely into breweries and distilleries, the supply of food may be beneficially augmented.

I have likewise to direct your earnest consideration to the permanent condition of Ireland. You will perceive, in the absence of political excitement, an opportunity for taking a dispassionate survey of the social evils which afflict that part of the United Kingdom. Various measures will be laid before you, which, if adopted by Parliament, may tend to raise the great mass of the people in comfort, to promote agriculture, and to lessen the pressure of that competition for the occupation of land which has been the fruitful source of crime and misery.

The marriage of the Infanta Luisa Fernanda of Spain to the Duke of Montpensier has given rise to a correspondence between my Government and those of France and Spain.

The extinction of the Free State of Cracow has appeared to me to be so manifest a violation of the Treaty of Vienna, that I have commanded that a protest against that act should be delivered to the Courts of Vienna, Petersburg, and Berlin, which were parties to it. Copies of these several papers will be laid before you.

I entertain confident hopes that the hostilities in the River Plate, which have so long interrupted commerce, may soon be terminated; and my efforts, in conjunction with those of the King of the French, will be earnestly directed to that end.

My relations generally with Foreign Powers inspire me with the fullest confidence in the maintenance of peace.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons. I have directed the estimates to be prepared, with a view to provide for the efficiency of the public service, with a due regard for economy.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have ordered every requisite preparation to be made for putting into operation the Act of the last session of Parliament, for the establishment of local courts for the recovery of small debts. It is my hope that the enforcement of civil rights in all parts of the country to which the Act relates may, by this measure, be materially facilitated.

I recommend to your attention measures which will be laid before you for improving the health of towns, an object the importance of which you will not fail to appreciate.

Deeply sensible of the blessings which, after a season of calamity, have been so often vouchsafed to this nation by a superintending Providence, I confide these important matters to your care, in a full conviction that your discussions will be guided by an impartial spirit; and in the hope that the present sufferings of my people may be lightened, and that the future condition may be improved by your deliberative wisdom.

After the delivery of the Speech, the *cortège* left the House almost in the manner in which it had entered.

The whole ceremony did not occupy twenty minutes.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert, on leaving the House, were warmly cheered.

The Lords re-assembled at five o'clock.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

The Lord Chancellor then, in due form, proceeded to read Her Majesty's Speech. At the close of the reading of which,—

Lord Hatherton said it was his duty to invite their Lordships' consideration to the Address he had the honour of proposing in reply to the speech of her Most Gracious Majesty, which they have just heard read. The noble lord concluded by moving the draught of an address which was, as usual, an echo of the speech.

Lord Carew briefly seconded the motion of Lord Hatherton.

Lord Stanley was happy to express his belief that, as the government had abstained from introducing into her Majesty's speech any expression which must necessarily lead to discussion, so there was no wish on the part of those who had not reposed their confidence in that government to embarrass them by premature opposition. Having attained power by no factious proceedings of their own, but by a combination of circumstances, her Majesty's advisers had peculiar claims to the forbearance of the House, and they might rest assured that so long as they walked in the path of the constitution and avoided rash and dangerous innovations, they would be met, not only by no factious opposition on that side of the House, but also by a ready and disinterested support. In this spirit and temper he would proceed to make a few observations, premising that, from the significant omission of any allusion to the financial condition of the country in the speech, it might be argued that that condition was not so satisfactory as it appeared on the face of the last quarterly returns; in fact, he was afraid lest in the course of the next six months there should be such an increase of imports over exports as seriously to inconvenience the country by reducing the quantity of bullion. In passing then to the topics contained in the speech, he was sure all must rejoice in the prospect of continued peace, though his confidence in that prospect was based rather on the general conviction throughout Europe of the folly of war, than on the state of foreign relations. He could not look with satisfaction on those relations, so long as we were not on terms, not merely of amity, but of cordial co-operation with France. It was impossible not to see that the good understanding lately existing between the two countries had been very much altered for the worse during the last few months; and though he should abstain from an opinion as to the comparative merits of the statements on either side respecting the Spanish marriage until the whole correspondence was before the House, yet he thought the country had received a slight in the manner in which that marriage was brought about, which would not have been passed on it had Lord Aberdeen been at the head of Foreign Affairs. This unfortunate coolness had been followed by another event, with which he could not help thinking it was nearly connected—the annexation of Cracow; and though on this point, too, he must reserve his judgment until the necessary papers were produced, he regarded the step taken by the three powers in violation of a treaty entered into under the auspices of England as a discourtesy which could not have happened if England and France had preserved their former cordial understanding. With regard to Ireland, there could be no question that an awful visitation had fallen on that island, and he was convinced that the country would make every sacrifice for its relief. He was not disposed to make captious observations on the course hitherto pursued for that end, but it was admitted on all hands that great errors had been committed, that the Labour Rate Act was a blunder, and that the plan for its extension was so clogged and fettered as to become a dead letter. In his opinion, however, a great error of the Government had been a too strict adherence to the abstract doctrines of political economy, when they resolved not to compete with private speculation in the supply of food to Ireland. Those doctrines must give way to great emergencies; and though he did not mean to assert that the Government should have undertaken to supply the

whole Irish people with food, they might have done much by establishing depots of provisions, and selling them at a fair market value, so as to keep down famine prices.

With respect to the proposed measures of relief, he did not anticipate any serious opposition to the measure for increasing the tonnage applicable to the importation of corn; but, believing as he did, that the scarcity of corn, both at home and abroad, was very much exaggerated, it ought to be a question whether the temporary suspension of the 4s. duty would answer the humane expectations of the Government, and whether it would not put money into the pockets of foreigners at the expense of the revenue.

After alluding to the injustice of allowing the use of sugar in brewing and distilling while the malt tax was retained, the noble Lord promised the Government support in their Irish measures, provided they did not yield to exorbitant demands; and after depicting the hampered position of the Irish landlords, who he thought had been undeservedly abused, implored the Government not to take any rash steps with regard to them, and to set to work at the social improvement of that country in the confident assurance that, if they honestly laboured for that end, no party considerations should defeat their endeavours.

The Marquis of Lansdowne said, as for the errors which they were accused of committing, it must be remembered that the extent of the calamity which was about to befall Ireland, could not be ascertained when the Labour Rate Act was passed; and in conclusion, the noble Marquis vindicated the course the Government had taken.

Lord Brougham thought the Parliament ought to have been called together before; and after some observations from several other noble lords, the Address was agreed to *non. con.*, and their lordships adjourned till Thursday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker took the chair at a quarter to two o'clock, and Lord John Russell entered at two precisely. There were present on the Ministerial benches, the Premier, the Right Hon. Fox Maule, the Lord Advocate, Mr. Gibson Craig, and Mr. B. Hawes. We observed on the Opposition side Sir James Graham, Mr. Henry Goulbourn, Mr. Sidney Herbert, Sir F. Thesiger, Lord Lincoln, and Mr. Cardwell. Colonel Sibthorp was also present on the same side. Mr. E. Banks was seated by Sir James Graham.

The Speaker in his robes, attended by about fifty out of the 150 members present, proceeded to the House of Lords.

On their return, at twenty-five minutes to three, the Speaker announced the reading of the speech, and the House adjourned till a quarter to four o'clock.

The leader of "Young Ireland" was ranged on the Opposition side, while Sir R. H. Inglis, and several members of the Protection party, were seated beneath the gangway.

The Speaker again took the chair at four o'clock, and informed the House that he had, during the vacation, issued his writ for the election of a new member for North Lincolnshire, in room of Lord Wensley, who had lately been raised to the House of Peers, as Earl of Yarborough.

MINISTERIAL MEASURES.

Mr. Tuffnell rose to give notice, on the part of the First Lord of the Treasury, that he should on Tuesday next move for a committee of the whole House to consider the question of the laws relating to the importation of corn into this country. He would also, on the same day, move that the House do resolve itself into committee on the navigation laws. He would also move on Friday next that a Select Committee be appointed to consider the law of settlement. On Monday the noble Lord would bring the state of Ireland before the House, and on Friday week he would announce the order in which the business of the House would be taken.

Mr. Parker, on the part of his Right Honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, gave notice that on Tuesday next he would move for a Committee of the House on the Customs and Excise Laws, and on an early day he would move the Sessional Orders of the House, and the Committee on Standing Orders.

Mr. Fox Maule said, that on an early day he would bring under the consideration of the House a law relative to limited enlistment in the army.

Mr. Hume gave notice that on an early day he would put a question to the First Lord of the Treasury relative to the intentions of Government as respected the Poor-law Commissioners, consequent on the proceedings of the last session.

TREATY OF VIENNA.

The honorable member also gave notice that on that day week he would call the

attention of the House to the violation of the treaty of Vienna by the seizure of Cracow, and he would move the suspension of the payment of £100,000 per annum which this country at present pays to Russia, in order to preserve that treaty inviolate.

Mr. Poulett Scrope said, that at the earliest opportunity he intended to bring forward a resolution that Ireland should have the benefit of similar laws with England, more particularly as respected making provisions for her suffering people.

Mr. Williams moved for a return of the quantity of corn, wheat, butter, and other agricultural produce, also the number of cattle, sheep, and swine imported into this country from Ireland during each month of the year ending December 31, 1846.—Motion agreed to.

HER MAJESTY'S SPEECH.—THE ADDRESS.

The Speaker stated that the House, in the early part of the day, had been summoned to the presence of the Queen in the House of Peers, and that her Majesty had delivered a most gracious speech from the throne. He then read the speech.

Mr. C. Howard rose to move that an humble address be presented to her Majesty, in return for her gracious speech. But before he would proceed to do so, he besought the House to accord him that indulgence which it usually granted upon such occasions, and which he would assure the House he stood very greatly in need of. He hoped sincerely that no observations of his would disturb the unanimity with which the speech of her Majesty would be received, and that they would imitate the example lately set them in Ireland, and for a time forbear from all party disputes (hear, hear).—in order the better to devote themselves to the consideration of Irish measures, and devise means for the permanent improvement of the country (hear, hear).

The first paragraph of her Majesty's Speech expressed the deep anxiety and concern for the dearth which at present existed in Scotland and Ireland. He felt sure that the House would join in that expression of feeling. He confessed that the circumstances of the latter country appeared to him to be of so appalling a character, and so beset with difficulties that he almost feared to address himself to the subject. But he felt confident that the mere allusion to them would be sufficient to excite sympathy, and would call forth the warmest efforts to relieve them (hear, hear).

Unfortunately the calamity of fever and famine was no new occurrence in Ireland. Last year it prevailed to a considerable extent, but it did not take place at such an early period of the season, nor was it attended with such fatal effects. This year disease had set in early in August, and so complete had been the destruction of the potato crop, that, with the exception of a few set in the early part of the year, they had been almost all destroyed. He felt how unable he was adequately to express in figures the state of things as regarded that failure, but he believed that the eleventh part of the arable part of the country, or about 1,200,000 acres, were occupied with potato cultivation. This immense crop had entirely failed; and when it was taken into consideration how many were dependent on it as their only subsistence, some idea might be formed of the distress which was the consequence of that failure. There were so many dependent on it that it was nearly impossible to fill its place. He would not attempt to describe the measure which the government intended to bring forward to meet this emergency. It would be for them to state the extent of the employment they had given, the facilities they had held out for the employment of the poor, and the contributions they had given to resist local contributions. But, notwithstanding all they had done, he was afraid that their efforts had not been sufficient to prevent disease, or save the country from being reduced to a most desperate state. He was glad to understand that Government intended to do all they could; that they were about to take off all duties which restricted the importation of foreign grain (hear, hear); and that they intended to allow molasses and sugar to be used in distilleries to save the grain hitherto used for that purpose (hear, hear).

He was quite aware of the benefit which this measure would produce to the country, but yet he could not disguise from himself the fact that after all it would only be of temporary utility, and that it would in no way affect the permanent condition of the people of Ireland. He would take the whole condition of that country into consideration, and would hope that the Government would devise such measures as would not only relieve the present distress, but would also prevent it becoming a permanent evil. Having noticed the distress

of that country, he thought he should be doing an injustice—a great injustice—to the people, if he did not at the same time notice the singular patience with which the people of Ireland had endured the extreme suffering to which they had been subjected during the existence of this terrible calamity.

He thought it but right to make this remark because he desired, as he trusted it would be shown, that the sympathy of that House went entirely with the people of Ireland, and that it would be a recommendation to the Irish people still further to bear up with fortitude against the distress that had fallen upon them.

There was another subject on which he wished to say a few words. He alluded to the destruction of the independence of Cracow, and he could not help expressing his extreme surprise that such a violation of the sanctity of treaties should have taken place, and he could not help looking upon it as a manifest violation of the treaty of Vienna (hear, hear).

There was one topic in her Majesty's speech which he thought of peculiar importance to this country—that was, the notice of the Health of Towns Reports, which had been made by Her Majesty's Commissioners, and he trusted that those Reports would awaken the people of this country to the importance of that subject, and that they would lead to such measures as would mainly contribute to that important object. In saying thus much, he ought to express his gratitude to Mr. Chadwick and Dr. Southwood Smith for their exertions and consideration of this subject, and for the valuable reports they had made. He would not trouble the House with any further remarks, but at once thank them for the indulgence he had received. The Honorable Member concluded by moving "that an humble address be presented to her Majesty in return for her Majesty's most gracious speech from the throne."

The Address was then read, which was, as usual, an echo of the speech.

Mr. Ricardo rose to second it. He said he did not anticipate that any opposition would be offered to the address, for the purpose of seconding which he now had the honour to rise. He believed that even if there were anything either of commission or omission in the opinion of any party in this case, they would be slow to offer any obstruction to her Majesty's Government at a moment when so large a portion of her Majesty's subjects require the adoption of measures which would lead to their immediate relief. He should not follow his honorable friend through the details of Irish distress, because he considered, after what he had said, if he alluded to it at all, he should pay but a poor compliment to his sincerity. He was sure that he expressed the sentiments of every member in the House when he stated his firm conviction that when the measures to be proposed by her Majesty's Government for the alleviation of the existing distress came under consideration, that they would approach the discussion of them with minds unbiassed by party hostility or by party considerations, and that they would be actuated by the same motives, in order to obtain the same end—devising a remedy for the present national calamity, and taking measures to prevent the recurrence of a similar state of things in future (cheers).

What those measures might be he had no means of knowing; indeed, if he did, it would be premature to discuss them then. But there was one part of the speech to which he wished to allude, namely, the admission of foreign corn, and for giving facilities for its admission (hear, hear). This he believed was understood to be done by removing the duties upon foreign corn, and by the relaxation of the navigation laws as far as regarded that importation. This subject had received universal discussion. He had heard but two objections raised against it, one of which was a most extraordinary one, that no larger quantity of corn could be admitted under a free importation than under the present duty. Certainly, if they could not get any in, they could not let any out. The next reason was, that the compact which was entered into between Parliament and the agricultural interests would be materially interfered with. Now, he confessed he thought there was no party in that House who would deem it wise to take upon himself the responsibility of adding one farthing to the price of food at the present moment, in order to sustain such a punctilio as this. He did not apprehend that the agriculturists of 1847 would think less disinterestedly of their country than the agriculturists and Parliament of 1800, when it would be borne in mind, not only was corn admitted for the relief of the suffering people, but a bounty paid on its introduction. Now, he did not consider that the state of the country would be so bad as it was in 1800, for the measures which would be taken by Her Ma-

jesty's Government would prevent their arriving at such a point of destitution. But there was one point to which he would call particular attention—they were not alone in their misfortune. The scarcity extended through the greater part of the continent of Europe. France, Holland, and Belgium had opened their ports and remitted their corn duties. They were, however, put upon their defence, and it would be utter madness in them if they should impose upon themselves any restrictions which would prevent them from obtaining a fair share of the produce necessary to their support (hear, hear).

Let them, for argument's sake, take the average price of corn to be 70s. a quarter. Upon that they had at present to pay a four shilling duty, while, under the old corn-law, they would have but one shilling. It was obvious to every one that the seller would sooner take his corn to a free and unrestricted market than to one where he would have to pay a toll of four shillings, even supposing that the toll were repaid by the price of corn.

They form their more intimate relations with corn-growing countries, and from their means of trafficking with them, from their insular position and superior means of internal transit, had certainly an advantage in keeping the price of corn lower than other countries. But in order effectually to do so, two things were necessary, the first of which was to remit their corn duties, and the second was to relax their navigation laws. They had been in the habit of receiving two millions of quarters of wheat from Ireland; they would not receive any this year, but the probability was, that they would have to export the same quantity, which would make a deficit of four millions (hear, hear).

When they considered the success that had attended the efforts which had been made to carry out a liberal system of commerce, they had the strongest presumption for believing that the best effects would follow from an abrogation of the navigation laws, which had hitherto operated so injuriously to the interests of not only the mother country, but their colonial dependencies. When they considered the extent of the British commerce—that it extended through every quarter of the globe—that their merchants and sailors were toiling everywhere in the cause of humanity—that their empire was washed by every sea—that their commercial traders were the best customers of the country, and their manufacturers surpassed by none in energy and enterprise—when they considered all these things, and the capital and resources, mineral and otherwise, which existed in the land; and when they also took into consideration the great advantages that had already attended the remission of the old law, which had failed in its operation in this country, and had lost them the North American colonies, besides creating irritation in the present dependencies of the country, they had every encouragement to come forward in the direction they had recently taken (cheers).

There was one other matter in the speech to which he would refer. It was that regarding the admission of sugar for the use of brewers and distillers. He did not intend to occupy the attention of the House at any length on the subject at present, as many opportunities would be afforded for its full discussion in future, but he must be permitted to say that the proposition would have the best effects in liberating a large amount of grain for the maintenance of the people (hear, hear), while at the same time he believed a considerable reduction could be made in the cost of some articles of luxury to the people (hear, hear). He considered that the measure would be but an act of bare justice to the agricultural interest, which complained of the abrogation of the protection that it had hitherto enjoyed. The success of that policy pursued—the experience of an increase in the Customs duties, at the same time that a large consumption of necessary and useful articles, such as timber, sugar, and brandy had taken place—encouraged them to go steadily forward in the same track (cheers). He was convinced that other nations would not be slow in following our example, but that they would prefer, as it was so evidently to their interests, to buy economically rather than manufacture expensively; that capital would quickly flow into the country, and that we should have such a return in answer to our proffers, that the world would speedily feel the benefit of those measures, and that their result would be an increase of plenty, prosperity, and peace. With these observations it only remained for him to second the Address which the Speaker had in his hands.

The Address having been read from the Chair,

Mr. S. O'Brien said that, however dis-

inclined he was to disturb the unanimity of the House on the present occasion, or in any respect to interfere with that unanimity with which addresses in reply to the speech of Her Majesty should have, he felt that he should be wanting in duty to his countrymen if he remained silent, and refrained from an appeal to the House, in behalf of those whose sufferings could neither be exaggerated nor described. It was surely not necessary for him to remind the House of the circumstances that had taken place during the last three months in Ireland. If honorable gentlemen would only look at the reports which were daily circulated through the newspapers of that country for the last three months, they would know that those sufferings were extreme; and that there was reason to apprehend, that unless immediate measures be taken they will not only continue but be very largely increased. The latest newspaper which he had received from that country contained an account of no less than eight inquests in the county of Mayo, in which verdicts had been returned of death from absolute starvation; and also an account of a family who were found living upon horse-flesh and carrion, the refuse of wild ducks and other birds. He was not prepared to say that her Majesty's Government were to be held entirely guiltless of having produced such a fearful state of things. He believed that it was in their power to have prevented a single death taking place through starvation. He did not accuse them of a wilful intention of doing so, but he thought that by the measures they had introduced, or rather the neglect of those measures, they had tended considerably to bring about that state of things. He would recall to the recollection of the House the pledge given by the noble lord at the head of the Government, at the close of the last session, that no interference on the part of the Government with food should be allowed. To that fatal pledge may be attributed many of the disasters which had befallen that unhappy country. The present Government should have followed the example of their predecessors, and made a pledge that, so far as the exertions of the Government were concerned they would do the utmost to prevent any human being dying of starvation. The noble lord had, no doubt, by this time discovered that the capital of this country was not of such a nature as could be immediately employed in obtaining resources for a population of five millions of persons, the greater portion of which were to be found in places where no trade or commerce had as yet any existence. The Government ought, therefore, to have been prepared to augment the supply of corn, by ransacking every port in the civilised world, and also to have introduced every description of produce, and by the application of that produce to the most remote parts of the country, have mitigated the evils and prevented those fearful disasters with which the public were unhappily too well acquainted (hear, hear). Then he wished to ask why should not the duty upon the importation of corn have been abrogated months ago, when the horrible state of the Irish people became known? The noble lord had been told enough in dealing with other duties, or rather the chief Secretary for Ireland had found no difficulty in legislating without Parliament. But why should not Parliament have been called together months ago, for the purpose of carrying out the plan only now suggested viz., of removing the corn duties, and suspending the navigation-laws, in order to alleviate the existing distress, and consequently of permitting such an importation of grain, and preventing the use of sugar in breweries and distilleries, and of employing the navy, as they had only recently been employed in carrying supplies of food to the extreme portions of the country, access to which was difficult? Then with respect to the employment of the people—and he regretted that he was addressing an audience five-sixths of whom knew nothing about the subject—the resident gentry and the failure of the potato crops, and who were consequently unable to give all the employment that was required stepped nobly forward and did their best to alleviate the distress, yet the Government refused to tax the absentee landlords (hear, hear). In such a state of things it was the duty of the Government to provide a temporary remedy. They passed at the end of last session a Bill which was called the Labour Rate Act, under which power was given to the executive to undertake works recommended by the Quarter Sessions, in order to give employment to the people, and under this Act they were employed in destroying the roads and in consigning the land to perpetual barrenness—nothing was done for its proper cultivation. He did not blame the Government for passing this

Act, because they no doubt did so precipitately, and without knowing the full extent of the sufferings of the people, but he could find no apology for the neglect of the government in not calling Parliament together for the purposes to which he had referred, and of whose conduct he could not speak in terms of praise. General remonstrance reached the government against the expenditure of such large sums of money, an object injurious or worthless, which they were for the most part. The hon. gentleman, instead of doing that, which was his duty, took upon himself the functions of the legislature, and that without consulting the Irish representatives who were the proper organ for legislative enactments. But the hon. gentleman had taken the sole responsibility of establishing regulations affecting the prosperity of the country and its taxation in a most material manner, and that through a letter couched in language very obscure and exceedingly difficult to understand. It appeared to him that the Minister who set such a precedent—for, let them remember it was a precedent—was deserving of impeachment. He might stand alone in that opinion, but he felt himself bound, notwithstanding, to express it. He was bound to state, in addition, that the instrument had remained a dead letter, and had thrown the country into confusion; for, up to that moment, it was his belief that a very small portion of the works had been undertaken in accordance with that letter. What they demanded was, that the employment of the people should no longer be directed to works of an entirely unproductive character; at the present moment hundreds and thousands of men were employed in destroying roads, when the lands were left untilled—(hear, hear)—the consequence of which would be that the famine of the next year would double that of the present. He complained that the provisions of the Act had not been carried into efficient effect, and that the Board of Works did not carry out the powers which had been reposed in them for the employment of the people. In the county of Mayo, he knew that the proprietors of land had taxed themselves to a great extent for the employment of the people, that due effect to the funds so raised had been given, through the inefficiency of the Board of Trade arrangements, while the people were dying by thousands. There was another consideration why Ireland should know the measures to be proposed at the earliest moment. Was the measure local or national? On that question would depend the reception which it would meet with in Ireland. If it were to be a national measure, then should all be called on to contribute to it equitably, without regard to class or party, landowner, mortgagee, fundholder, and annuitant. Whatever he, as a humble member of the House, might think of the measure or the character given to it, would depend upon its efficacy as a means of relief for the sufferings of the Irish people. It would show to the millions of that country whether the union was to be productive of benefit to Ireland, or throw all the advantages in favour of England (laughter). By the encouragement of absentees to spend the rents levied in Ireland out of the country. There could be no real union between the two countries, unless the interests of Ireland were fully recognised and consulted, and he trusted the measures of the Government would be an instalment in that direction (hear, hear). If that were the case, then it followed that the manufacturers of Ireland could flourish, and he would put a case to their imagination in which the principle that had been advocated could not hold. Suppose, in the case of an invasion of any other national disaster, that should deprive the people of employment, whose food would be as scarce as employment, could they dare to adopt such measures as those which were now recommended, and which would be equivalent to swamping the whole of the landed interest of Ireland. He did not wish to offer to the present Government, for he looked upon their attainment of office with the greatest satisfaction, and had certainly greater sympathy with them than with any other set in the House. But he had at present no faith in the plans which they had devised, and he thought that they would not by any means be likely to satisfy his countrymen. There had been a committee sitting in Dublin, whose business it was to investigate the state of the country. He would not that night enter into the details of that committee, but he did not hesitate to say, that for himself, if their recommendations were adopted, he would hesitate to give in his adhesion to the extension of the poor law to Ireland. But if the cry for help that was now making from Ireland was not to be met, not by

relief, but by such pamphlets as that which he held in his hand. (An extract from Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations"), nothing could allay the exasperation of the people, or avoid the dreadful calamity of impending famine. The opinions which he entertained upon the subjects of political economy, the duty of the Government, and the duty of the Legislature, were not at all acceptable to that House; he felt it his duty however to state then, and so long as would he continue to hold the Government responsible for every death which might occur through starvation—(Cries of "Oh oh,")—if they did not adopt every measure which might be probably and fairly expected of them. Summary.—Mr. Poulett Scrope would not have troubled the House had it not been for the speech of the honorable member, who had said nothing of any measures to be adopted for the relief of the impotent poor in Ireland. The plans of the Government were calculated to afford relief to the able-bodied poor; but how, he would ask, were the impotent poor to be maintained? The Government looked either to voluntary contribution or workhouses for the relief of the impotent poor. Both these, it was manifest, were inadequate to meet the circumstances of the case, and he desired to know how it happened that the duty of preventing starvation in their respective neighbourhoods had not been imposed on the local authorities appointed under the Poor-law of 1837. Mr. Labouchere wished that he could say that Mr. S. O'Brien had drawn an overcharged picture of the miseries of Ireland—but he could not. Still, he must dissent from Mr. S. O'Brien's conclusion when he attempted to fasten on the Government the responsibility of these calamities, and when he said that every death which had occurred from starvation ought to weigh heavily on the conscience of every member of the Cabinet. He reminded Mr. S. O'Brien of the ordinary condition of Ireland, of which the population was admitted to be the worst housed, the worst clothed, and the worst fed in Europe; and asked him to consider the nature of the extraordinary visitation which had just fallen upon it. The great bulk of its food had been swept away. The total loss in money value which that population had sustained by the failure of the potato crop and of the oat crop, had been calculated to amount to not less than £15,960,000. But the loss was not to be considered merely as a loss of money and food—it must be recollected that the potato cultivation was connected with the entire agricultural system of Ireland, and that the failure of it had damaged the interests of every branch of that agricultural community. After showing that the power of Government to relieve distress was not unlimited, he proceeded to defend himself against the charge of not having adopted the same system which Sir R. Peel had adopted last year for supplying the people of Ireland with food. He showed that the circumstances in which the country was then placed were very different from those in which it was placed at present. Then we were under a restrictive system—now we were under the system of free trade. Then the evil was limited in its extent; now it was almost universal. He next proceeded to defend the employment which he had afforded under the Labour Rate Act, and the deviations which he had recommended to be made from it, expressing his surprise that Mr. S. O'Brien should say that in making those deviations in compliance with the general voice of the landowners of Ireland, he deserved impeachment. He believed, that whenever Mr. S. O'Brien brought forward the articles of that impeachment he would not find a single Irish member to second him. Ireland had a right to expect assistance from both England and Scotland, but in return both England and Scotland had a right to call upon the gentry and people of Ireland to leave nothing undone in their efforts to grapple with its distress. He saw an improved spirit springing up in Ireland; he believed that the landlords of that country were wakening to the conviction that if Ireland was to be saved from great disaster, it must be through the agency of her own children. To the question of Mr. P. Scrope he replied, that the infirm and impotent poor of Ireland had been relieved through the medium of the relief committees. He admitted that the existing Poor Law had been found insufficient to compete with the present calamities of Ireland; but he believed that any Poor Law—even that which Mr. P. Scrope had himself proposed last session—would have been equally insufficient for that purpose. In conclusion, he adverted to the effects produced by these calamities on the peace of

society. It was stated in the speech that outrages had been committed. Now, it was not surprising, with famine in the land, that the House should not form any misconception respecting it. The general character of the state of crime in Ireland amounted to this:—There was a great increase in the amount of outrages, but it was an increase in the attacks on property. The old agrarian offences had disappeared; the spirit of combination had almost disappeared; there was no longer any sympathy with the offence, or difficulty in enforcing the law against the offender. He proved this statement by contrasting the amount of crime in December, 1845, with the amount in December, 1846; and concluded by one more calling upon the House to give its assistance to the people of Ireland, and by calling on the Irish members to justify that assistance by struggling manfully against the evils of their country.

Lord G. Bentinck observed, that neither he nor his friend had any intention to make Ireland the battle-field of party. They deeply sympathised with the miseries of Ireland, and with her Majesty's concern for them; and they would give their best and calmest attention to any remedies brought forward for their relief. They must, however, deal frankly with ministers. Though they did not censure ministers for not calling Parliament together three months ago, instead of superseding by their own authority the Legislature itself, they could not say that the acts of ministers were such as they could agree to. They could not look at the operation of the Poor Employment Act and say that it worked well; for its effect had been to obstruct the public conveyances, and to leave the fields of Ireland untilled. Neither could they agree in the wisdom of the ministerial measures for the supply of food to the people; for Government ought to have broken through the rules of political economy, and to have provided the people of Ireland with a supply of food. Looking at what had occurred in the barony of Skibbereen, where the population had been decimated in the last few weeks by famine, could it be said that the Government had done its duty? There were three or four hundred thousand quarters of wheat now in the three ports of London, Liverpool, and Glasgow. What was there to prevent the Government from sending it at once to Ireland to feed the population starving there? Alluding to the proposition to remove the 4s. duty on corn, he repudiated the idea that it had been imposed in consequence of any compact between the Parliament and the agricultural interest. He and his friends were anxious to relieve the Government from the supposition that they were bound to retain that duty in consequence of a compact made with the agricultural interest, and he, therefore, informed his noble friend that it was not their intention to throw any obstacle in the way of repeal of that duty. It would be a loss to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and no benefit to the consumer; for it would go into the pockets of the merchants and forestallers, of whom the people of Ireland had already too much reason to complain. He did not expect much benefit to accrue from the relaxation of the Navigation Laws; for it was too late now to be sending the ships of all nations to America, for to America they must go, if they wished to procure corn. He advised ministers to relax their rigid principles of political economy, and to send the eight ships of the line which they had now ready for sea at once to America for corn. They might make five voyages to and from that continent before the next harvest, and in that time they would bring back 300,000 quarters, no mean supply towards feeding the people of Ireland. He regretted that the policy of the noble lord opposite had been such as to reduce us to a bad understanding with the King of the French; and though he found the noble lord had not protested against the Montpensier marriage, and had softened down his temper considerably respecting the Treaty of Utrecht, he must still venture to withhold his approbation from the policy which he had pursued. He believed that the people of England did not care a straw about the Montpensier marriage, and that they did not feel any sympathy in the sentiments expressed by Her Majesty's Government. He thought that it was a grievous charge against our allies to say, that in extinguishing the free state of Cracow, they had been guilty of a manifest violation of the Treaty of Vienna. He could not see any such violation in an infraction of one of the seventeen supplementary articles to the Treaty of Vienna, which the Ministers of England had never signed in chief. What did Lord Palmerston denounce the severance of Belgium from Holland? The Treaty of Vienna was torn to tatters when England joined

with France in blockading the Scheldt and bombarding Antwerp. He deeply regretted that Lord Palmerston had thought it his duty to express in a speech from the Throne in such strong language his condemnation of the conduct of three of the best and most natural allies of England. He should wait to see the other measures proposed by Government before he expressed any opinion upon them. He hoped that those which they contemplated for Ireland would be grand, comprehensive, and successful: if they were not, he would venture to propose a measure of his own. His friends were prepared to support the Irish poor this winter, but in future they expected that Irish property of one description or another should support the Irish poor.

Mr. Roebuck deeply sympathised in the miseries of Ireland, and would do everything in his power to relieve them. He rose, however, to warn the Government against converting that which was a mere temporary calamity into a permanent curse to this country. What, he would ask, was to become of all this begging for Ireland? No Government could pay and feed a whole people; nor had any people a right to be so paid and fed. The aristocracy of Rome had indeed paid and fed the people; but if the Government of England were to pay and feed the Irish people, all the depravity and demoralization of ancient Rome would be but a speck in the horizon, when compared with the depravity and demoralization which would fall upon England from the adoption of such a scheme with respect to Ireland. As a representative of the people of England, he said that they should not pay and feed the people of Ireland. He then attacked the landlords of Ireland with great warmth and bitterness, and called upon the House to compel them to support the poor of their own country. We were about to review the English Poor Law. Now, in the new act he would place two words which would extend it to Ireland, and would thus make the act of Elizabeth obligatory on that country. He repeated his determination not to vote for any law which taxed the peaceable and orderly people of England for the benefit of that rude anarchy which prevailed in what was called the sister kingdom of Ireland. Ireland had long wanted a man, but she had not got one, who could forego his personal interests, quarrels, and prejudices, and merge himself entirely in her people; on the contrary, she had got one who exaggerated all grievances, and who even invented them when they were not ready to his hands. He recommended Lord John Russell, in legislating for Ireland, not to yield to party clamour; to recollect that he was legislating for three kingdoms, and not for one; and to reflect that a people who were worthy of being maintained must maintain themselves. He then made himself and the House merry at the expense of Lord G. Bentinck, who, he said, had talked much and largely about a grand and comprehensive scheme for the amelioration of Ireland which he had in view, but had not even whispered a syllable respecting its nature. With reference to the foreign part of the speech, he considered our interference in the Spanish marriages to have been quite unequalled for, and hoped that it would terminate with the publication of the correspondence. He thought that Lord Palmerston had been beaten in this diplomatic contest by M. Guizot, and regretted that he had displayed no small degree of temper in consequence. He also condemned his Lordship for protesting against the inheritance of the Infanta of Spain by the children of the Infanta, and asked what right had we to interfere with the succession of Spain. In conclusion, he contended that the Treaty of Utrecht did not now bind the nations of Europe; and that, if it did, the Montpensier marriage was not affected by it.

Mr. Grattan congratulated Mr. Roebuck on his appearance in the character of the charitable Samaritan, but left the House to decide whether he had poured oil or vinegar into the wounds of Ireland. He then vindicated the gentry of Ireland from the aspersions cast upon them by Mr. Roebuck, that they were beggars, and amused the House by declaring that Regent-street, Lansdowne-house, and Devonshire-house, had all been built out of the resources of Ireland.

Mr. Dillon Browne observed, that as Mr. Roebuck had thought fit to void the rheum of his waspish and dyspeptic disposition on the gentry of Ireland, he must remind the honorable member that if they were beggars, they were so in consequence of British legislation. If the House would restore to Irishmen their native legislature, they would not only meet the present, but would also be well prepared to meet all future emergencies.

Mr. B. Osborne vindicated the Irish

landlords from the charges so unjustly preferred against them by Mr. Roebuck. A speech of a more chilling nature than the present had never fallen from the lips of Majesty. It stated that outrage had been checked—but how? By the military and the police. It ought to have been checked by the free importation of food. Why had not Government done long since, by order in Council, what they were now going to do by an act of the Legislature? He was sorry to find that there was an inclination in the House to sneer at the distresses of Ireland; and, what was worse, the Government was acting in that country upon the suggestions of Mr. Trevelyan, who was inimical to its people.

Sir R. Inglis vindicated Mr. Trevelyan from the unjust attack made upon him by the last speaker. The first seven speeches of that evening had been devoted exclusively to the consideration of Ireland and of Irish distress, and as yet not one word had been said respecting the patient suffering of the people of Scotland, of whom a large portion were at present exposed to the horrors of famine. He considered that the Spanish marriage was not a subject on which the Government would carry along with them the sympathy of the people of England. With respect to the extinction of Cracow, he would only say that it was for the House and for Europe to determine whether they would be satisfied with it.

Lord John Manners remarked that other countries had thought it right to prohibit the exportation of corn from their frontiers at present. He understood that there were at present in the Seine 27 English vessels freighted with corn for France. Such a state of things ought not to be permitted when we were remitting the duties on the importation of foreign corn. He then referred to the correspondence on the Montpensier marriage, and pointed out the great injustice which had been done in it by M. Guizot to the Comte de Montemolin.

Lord J. Russell was not surprised that Mr. S. O'Brien had condemned the policy of the Government, for it was opposed to that which he had recommended himself, and which Lord G. Bentinck had supported. The hon. member had been of opinion that the Government ought to have ransacked the world to procure corn, and that it ought to have attempted to feed the people of Ireland with the produce so procured. But if the Government had adopted any such project, it would have put an end to private enterprise and to the application of private capital, and would have led to other consequences still more prejudicial. It would have enhanced the price of corn in England and Scotland, and would have induced the labouring classes in both countries to become applicants for Government relief. Having pointed out how unwise and impracticable such a scheme must have turned out, he proceeded to defend the mode of relief adopted by the Government by establishing depots in various remote districts of Ireland without any disturbance to the general markets. He then alluded to the foreign policy of the Government, and in conclusion, said he believed that much injury had been done to the feelings of Englishmen by the language used in Ireland of late years, and that that language had indisposed many Englishmen to exertion at present. He believed, however, that the majority of our population was anxious to do all that was necessary for the improvement of Ireland.

Mr. Disraeli and Colonel Conolly offered a few observations.

Sir R. Peel did not rise to disturb the unanimity of the House upon the address, but to remark that there was scarcely one topic in it which might not be debated with greater advantage when the measures relating to it were regularly before the House. With respect to the correspondence on the Montpensier marriage, which had appeared in the French papers, he supposed that it was only a part of what had taken place. He hoped that the noble lord would publish the rest of it, and would give all of it which related to the conduct of the late Government. Waiting for that correspondence, he would abstain from saying anything further upon it than this—that while the late Government was in power, it had made no efforts to promote any alliance between the Queen of Spain and the House of Coburg. He had, always been of opinion that it would neither be for the interest of Spain nor for that of England that such an alliance should take place. He expressed his deep regret that the extinction of Cracow had taken place. It was not only an act impolitic in itself, but it was also a virtual departure from the engagements into which the three Powers had entered. He regretted that there was no reference to the state of the revenue in the address, as

it would have been of advantage to the country to know at once what its prospects were. With respect to Ireland, he was disposed to make every allowance for the measures adopted by her Majesty's Government. He did not blame them for not having called the Parliament together at an earlier period, for nothing could be done in Ireland without unremitting exertions on the part of the landlords. He thought that if the duty had been removed earlier it would have been productive of greater advantage; at present it would, in his opinion, produce but little. We ought not, however, to try the Government by the information which it possessed at the time. After the statement of the noble lord, as to the number of staff officers and other workmen employed by the Board of Works, he thought that one of the first objects of the House ought to be the restoration of the natural relations of labour between the employers and the employed. He then expressed his concurrence in the measure which would give admission to sugar in our breweries and distilleries, but said that here, too, he must observe, that it would have been of greater advantage had it been earlier. In conclusion, he stated that he did not intend to object to any of the temporary measures which were deemed necessary by those who directed the affairs of the country, and who were responsible for its security against starvation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JANUARY 25.

Lord John Russell.—Sir, in considering the state of Ireland, I will first proceed with laying down what is the order in which I wish to discuss the subject. In the first place, I propose to state generally the condition of those parts of the United Kingdom in which this calamity has occurred; secondly, to make a general statement of what has occurred during the recess of Parliament; what has been done in consequence of Acts of Parliament; how far I think they have been deficient, and then to state what we will proceed to do for the general emergency. (Hear, hear.) After having made that statement, I shall ask the attention of the House while I proceed to invite them to some consideration of other measures which are calculated, in the opinion of her Majesty's Government to improve the state of Ireland, and to lay the foundation of her permanent welfare and tranquillity. I shall then take the liberty of mentioning a number of subjects which, although they had been under consideration, have not received a full discussion. And we propose, in conclusion, to ask the authority of the House for the introduction of two Bills: by one of these Bills we propose to make valid certain Acts, one under the authority of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and communicated in a letter to my right hon. friend who sits next me (Mr. Lamberton). The second Bill is for the purpose of approving the present estimates in regard to Ireland, in pursuance of the Treasury minute of the 1st December last (hear, hear). In proceeding to consider the present condition of that country, I think it will be the safest course for me to use guarded and careful information respecting the calamity which has overtaken Ireland, and for that purpose I propose to take the results of the Commission of inquiry into the Poor-law, and to ask the House to infer how great that calamity has been—representing an almost total failure of the potato crop. In the first report of that Poor-law Inquiry Commission, composed of gentlemen of considerable experience and authority in Irish affairs, it is represented that the great proportion of the population is continually fluctuating between the condition of paupers and independent labourers. (Hear, hear.) Scarcely one class of the working population are permanently beyond the condition of pauperism. It is stated further that there are few small resident gentry; that the clergy and laity exhibit much variance with each other, and that these again are at issue with the labouring population. The state of feeling has occasioned great difficulty in giving effect to the measures already passed to improve the condition of Ireland, both in the construction and working of the parochial boards and other bodies organized for that purpose. In the third report of the same Commission, which, with the others, go to form the general report of the Commissioners, the following facts are given:—It appears that in Great Britain agriculture constitutes one-fourth of the business of the people, whereas in Ireland it forms two-thirds. In 1831 the number of persons engaged in agriculture in Great Britain was 1,651,000; in Ireland it was 1,131,716. At the same time while Great Britain had 24,360,000 acres in cultivation, Ireland had but 14,600,000. (Hear, hear.) Ireland had therefore in proportion to its extent five agricultural labourers for Great Britain's one. At the same time, while in Ireland the wages of the labourer was from 6d. to 9d. a day, it was in Great Britain from 2s. to 3s. 6d. A great portion of them were not sufficiently provided at any time with the commonest necessities of life. Their habitations were wretched huts, in which several families slept upon straw, covered sometimes with a blanket, sometimes without even that protection. Their food was dry bread, and some of them were obliged to stint themselves to one spare meal a day, and in some cases had been known of persons driven by hunger, being compelled to seek sustenance from wild roots. Their employment was scarce and uncertain, some going in search of employment to Great Britain during the harvest time, some going on a similar errand in Ireland, and many having only casual resources to fly to for the support of their children. Such, therefore, is the description given by the most undoubted authorities of the state of the labouring classes in Ireland. The state of Ireland may be imagined, when I say that those who had not sufficient food are those who are best off, and yet they had scarcely enough, and those who had been before on the brink of famine, have perhaps

been unable to resist the calamity. Such has been, unfortunately, the case during the present year, and during the visitation of a calamity which is, perhaps, almost without a parallel, because it occurs in a very large population—a population of eight millions, which has gradually increased to that amount, while the famine is such as has not been known in modern times—(hear, hear). I should say it is like a famine of the thirteenth century; so destructive and universal are its effects. He thought that the whole burden of these public works should not be borne by Ireland, and he therefore should propose that each year, as an instalment became due, if one-half was paid, the other should be remitted, keeping up the whole debt until one-half should be paid. It should be recollected that this was placing a considerable burden on the finances of the country, and which prevented him from making several propositions entailing expense, which he should otherwise have proposed. It should be remembered that these grants from the consolidated fund were grants from sums paid by the people on their soap, their tea, and their sugar, and it should always be borne in mind that these were levied upon the people of this country out of their daily toil. He also proposed to advance a sum not exceeding £50,000, to be repaid before the end of December, for the purchase of seed. He proposed that this advance should be made to the proprietors and not to the tenants. In proposing these advances he declared that he did not nor could he expect to ward off the effects of the awful visitation of Providence with which Ireland had been afflicted. It was not in the power of man to do away with the effect of such a calamity. The interference of Government to alleviate distress might be made in this way. Assistance might be granted to proprietors by loans for the improvement of property—by public works—by ensuring that relief should be given to the destitute by law. These three modes should be kept separate. In advancing to proprietors care should be taken that such advances should be applied to the purposes for which they were granted. Such security was taken by the law passed in the last session, and by the Drainage Act more particularly. They proposed to take the term proposed in the Drainage Act, for making advances, and to extend it to other improvements, doing away with technical difficulties which obstructed the operation of that Act, allowing proprietors to borrow money at 3 per cent. to be repaid in twenty-two years, making an allowance for repayment, if such repayment should take place earlier. This would be better than combining such a plan with any plan for the relief of the poor. They also proposed to consolidate and improve the Drainage Act, to undertake by the State the reclamation of a portion of the waste lands of Ireland. They proposed to devote £1,000,000 to this purpose—that if the proprietor chose to part with it he may sell it, but that if he refused to sell or to improve, there shall be a compulsory power of taking land by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, when its value was below 2s. 6d. an acre. It was proposed that it should be generally reclaimed, roads be made, buildings erected, and divided into lots of from 25 to 50 acres, and either let to a tenant for a number of years or sold, but they do not intend to undertake by that grant, the task of cultivation. He anticipated great advantage from the location of the expelled tenantry from other properties on these holdings, and he thought it would be a nucleus for the formation of a body of small independent proprietors. He did not think that the small holdings were the cause of the misery of Ireland, for in the county of Armagh, where the small landlords were the most numerous, the people were the most prosperous. In stating these measures, which they proposed to introduce immediately, he had not stated all the measures which they intended to introduce. With regard to measures for the relief of the destitute, he proposed that relief should no longer be confined to the workhouse. He proposed to bring in a bill for the more effectual relief of the destitute poor of Ireland, empowering the guardians to give relief either in or out of the workhouse, at their discretion, to the infirm, poor, and to all those who are permanently disqualified from earning their living by labour, thus giving the guardians power to relieve the destitute at their own homes, and when the workhouse was full he proposed to give the poor-law commissioners power to enable the guardians to give relief in food only. He proposed to appoint relieving officers, who, in case of urgent distress, should have power to take persons into the house, or to give outdoor relief until the next meeting of the board of guardians. The next measure he should propose was that for facilitating the sale of encumbered property and should also propose a measure, by which property let on long leases, renewable for ever, might be converted into freeholds. He then adverted to the fisheries, on which subject, at a subsequent period he should have something to propose. As to emigration, he entirely set his face against such a project as deluging countries with a mass of paupers. The best mode of promoting emigration was by affording aid on the arrival of the emigrants at the place of their destination. If the landowners would undertake improvements in agriculture and in other ways, with the co-operation of the government, the most beneficial results must follow; and seeing how other countries had regenerated, it would be unworthy of them to despair as to Ireland. The Irish landowners must not always look to the government and to parliament for support, but look to what was the task before them, and see whether the resources of Ireland could not be so developed as to bring matters to a happy issue. He would, in conclusion, tell the House, if they would be firm in meeting the present state of things and help themselves, Heaven would help them, and then they would find that there had been some uses in adversity.

Lord John Russell said he should move that the two bills be printed. The first bill, the Irish Indemnity Bill, was only to render effectual what had been done by the Lord Lieutenant. The other bill would not be ready until Thursday.

The motion was agreed to, and the bills were introduced.

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